

Appl. No. 10/005,178
Amendment dated April 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3 with the following rewritten version:

-- The first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36 are spaced apart by a first distance or height d_1 measured parallel to the center longitudinal axis C that is smaller than a second distance (d_2) measured perpendicular to the center longitudinal axis C between the first and second sealing surfaces 34 and 36. Thus, the annular center section 33 has a slope that is not greater than 45° with respect to the first and second contact planes P_1 and P_2 based on the geometry of right triangles (i.e., the Pythagorean theorem). However, in the illustrated embodiment, the first distance d_1 is substantially equal to a second distance d_2 , as best seen in Figure 4. Accordingly, the slope or incline of the annular center section 33 with respect to the first and second contact planes P_1 and P_2 is closer to forty-five degrees than zero degrees, as seen in Figures 3-6. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8 with the following rewritten version:

-- The third annular section 33 is a frustoconical tube. The first and second annular end sections 31 and 32 are contiguously arranged at opposite axial ends of the annular center section 33 such that sealing loads applied substantially perpendicularly on the first and second annular sealing surfaces 34 and 36 primarily deform due to torsional stress of the metallic seal 10. In other words, the metallic seal 10 is deformed less than 50% by collapsing or axial bending such as in the S-shaped seals disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,813,692 and 4,854,600. Preferably, the metallic seal 10 only collapses or bends axially by about 20%. The annular center section 33 preferably slopes about 45° relative to the first and second planes P_1 and P_2 in the illustrated embodiment, as best seen in Figure 6. --